



## Rare Earth News



**Next delivery in 147 days: June 14th 2012**

Greetings and happy new year to everyone! The picture above was taken last week before we received our first snowfall for the year. It's been a first for us to see no snow at this time of the year. Well last Thursday we finally got our first measurable snowfall. Looks now like snow is here to stay for a while. Maybe after all we'll be able to pull the skis out for a little skiing before our spring thaw.

Now that we've made it through our holiday festive activities we're settled back into focusing on planning for the upcoming growing season. Repairing equipment, paging through seed catalogs, and ordering supplies are some of the first tasks signaling the start of a new season. Currently we've been spending time at our desks putting our seed orders together. With everything to consider the seed selection process always takes a sizeable amount of time. Most of the varieties we grow have been good performers in previous years. The seed selection process also includes choosing "trial" varieties. Knowing that older unpopular varieties are often discontinued you want to have a back-up in mind. A constant effort by breeders to create new cultivars along with a constant changing industry is the cause for varietal discontinuation. Unfortunately the changes in modern food production have often eliminated a lot of old classic varieties. When seed of one kind becomes unavailable we like to have a worthy replacement ready to take its place. So the whole seed ordering process takes a fairly large amount of time to finish. Fortunately winter provides us with the time to contemplate our choices a little more in

depth. We want to be selecting the best vegetable varieties: those that taste good and grow well on our soils. The farm surveys that some of you returned to us have been a great help. We know what we like to grow but the food is for you too, and so your comments are strongly considered. Thank you for your time in completing the form. There's still time to send in your survey if you haven't done so.

**Help spread the word.....** We'd like to open a pick-up location in Sheboygan but before we can do that we need a willing host family. Does anybody know a friend, family member, co-worker who lives in Sheboygan that might be interested in hosting or just being a CSA member? Encourage them to inquire with us and check out our website. We'll also be at the Maywood Local Food Fair in Sheboygan on Saturday, Feb 11. [http://www.gomaywood.org/park\\_info.htm](http://www.gomaywood.org/park_info.htm)

Of course as always we are awaiting warmer weather, but for now we'll enjoy a little more free time to ourselves to do a few things that we don't have time for during the growing season. Hope your spending your winter doing some of the same. Take care!

Steve & Debra Jo

This year's annual "Local Farmer Open House" at the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee will be held on Saturday March 17th from 11:00am until 4:00pm. Here's a chance to come see us in person and get a chance to chat with us. There will be workshops to attend throughout the day providing information about CSA's and other related topics like how to cook using your CSA box of food. Find out where you can buy meats, dairy, cheese from other local farmers who will be there too. <http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/localfarmeropenhouse.html>



Steve at his desk looking through seed catalogs.



Debra Jo is picking spinach in one of our greenhouses .

If you haven't signed up for 2012 there's still plenty of time, however if you don't plan to sign-up until later this spring give us a courtesy email just to let us know we can count on your return. Thank you! [rareearthfarm@frontier.com](mailto:rareearthfarm@frontier.com)

Steve & Debra Jo